

## APPENDIX 2 – CONSULTATION DRAFT

Outcome Sponsor:

Outcome Lead:

# Planning Environment and Infrastructure

**Key Drivers = Supporting Growth and Investment, Enhancing Quality of Life, Place Shaping and Connectivity**

**Priority Outcome: – Encouraging investment and sustainable growth through working with partners to develop the right planning environment and infrastructure.**

**Why is this a priority?** Successful businesses need to grow but to do so, they require a planning environment that not only encourages economic development but anticipates business needs. At the same time resources must be conserved so growth should be sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change, particularly natural disasters. The South West has been declared the UK's first Low Carbon Economic Area; Gloucestershire has a key role to play in delivering this and has itself become the first 10:10 County. In addition, concerns about future food security means that the importance of an agriculture sector that increases production sustainably and maintains the unique environment of the County will become more critical.

**Where do we want to be in three years time?** By March 2014 Gloucestershire needs to have:

- Plans in place that anticipate the needs of the economy and encourages investment.
- Transformed the relationship between businesses and planners so that the economy can grow quickly, appropriately and sustainably.
- Increased the provision of Next Generation 'superfast' broadband, especially in areas unlikely to be supported directly by enhancements in the marketplace
- Developed and implemented solutions to strengthen the critical infrastructure (power, water, etc.) of Gloucestershire.
- Reduced business energy consumption per unit of output.
- Increased significantly the proportion of its energy consumption sourced from renewable resources within the County.
- Continued to strengthen the economy of Cheltenham and Gloucester through a co-ordinated growth strategy as an important catalyst for fulfilling the economic potential of the whole County.
- Strengthened the provision of rural services at a community level
- Maintained momentum on the economic business case to drive through key strategic infrastructure improvements
- An LTP3 that achieves a local transport infrastructure and integrated public transport services that are appropriate to the needs of a developing Gloucestershire economy and provides solutions to the road and rail capacity issues in the County, including the handling of freight
- A better understanding of the Low Carbon Sector and have identified opportunities to support its development.
- Improved the accessibility of information and advice in order to encourage a high percentage of businesses to actively implement Carbon Reduction/Management plans

What will be done in 2011/12					
Improvement Activity	Planned Benefits	Key Resources	Dates	Lead	Partners
<p><b>Planning for Economic Growth</b> – Drawing on the Local Economic Assessment, active involvement in key strategic planning work to ensure full account is taken of economic and business needs – Joint Core Strategy and Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan process etc</p>	<p>Transforms the relationship between businesses and planners by brokering more effective pre-application dialogue and public/private sector interface in terms of master planning/forward planning activity. Improved provision of readily available employment land and workspace for the future particularly linked to new housing developments.</p> <p>Takes advantage of measures in the Localism Bill</p>	<p>GCC staff time GFirst staff time</p>	<p>Review April 2012</p>	<p>GCC</p>	<p>BMC<sup>1</sup>, District Authorities GFirst</p>
<p><b>Strategic Infrastructure</b> – In partnership with business, identify and influence opportunities to enhance strategic infrastructure requirements</p>	<p>A better rail service to London which makes Gloucestershire a more attractive business location. Active engagement in SIDP; greater awareness and utilisation of Economic Assessment to support infrastructure planning Collaboration with key partners to enhance the County's lobbying capability</p>	<p>GCC staff time</p>	<p>Review April 2012</p>	<p>GCC/GFirst</p>	<p>BMC, District Authorities</p>
<p><b>Market Towns</b> – Encourage the County's market towns to take advantage of the measures in Localism Bill to be proactive in drawing up plans for economic growth.</p>	<p>Promoting a social enterprise culture Managing community held assets Strengthening communities</p>	<p>Town Council time and funds</p>	<p>Review April 2012</p>	<p>GMTF</p>	<p>Town Councils Local businesses, Chamber of Trade, , District Councils</p>

<sup>1</sup> Business Membership Consortium (BMC) comprising the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Small Businesses, CBI, IoD, Chambers of Trade, CLA, NFU, etc

					GRCC
<p><b>Sustainable Rural Communities</b> – Encourage villages to take advantage of mechanisms such as Feed in Tariffs plus measures in the Localism Bill to carry out a review of their assets (and use these to become more sustainable rural communities)</p>	<p>Parish Councils capability ? Development of low carbon infrastructure</p>	<p>Parish Council energy</p>	<p>Review April 2012</p>	<p>Parish Councils</p>	<p>GRCC and District Councils</p>
<p><b>Key Regeneration Projects</b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider opportunities to maximise the economic potential of the County as a 'strategic gateway', focusing on priorities such as:</li> <li>- Masterplanning in Tewkesbury</li> <li>- Supply chains utilising the M5 corridor</li> <li>- Gloucester City Regeneration – Support the ongoing regeneration programme for Gloucester City</li> <li>- Economic development potential of Cheltenham</li> <li>- The Gloucestershire Gateway - M5 Service Station</li> <li>- Restoration of the Thames-Severn Canal</li> </ul>	<p>Growth of GVA by existing businesses Enhanced inward investment offer Increased private sector investment levels Reduction in vacancy rates. Infrastructure improvements</p>	<p>Regional Growth Fund HCA</p>	<p>Review Oct 2011</p>	<p>District authorities/GCC /GFirst</p>	<p>GCC GHURC Chamber of Trade HCA Glos Gateway Trust Cotswold Canals Trust</p>
<p><b>High Speed Broadband</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver in partnership with Herefordshire Council the 'Borders' high speed broadband pilot project.</li> <li>• Develop a 'Local Broadband Plan' to enable the presentation of an investment case to BDUK for Next Generation Access (NGA) funding to support infrastructure improvements in priority areas of Gloucestershire.</li> </ul>	<p>The Herefordshire pilot will lead to high speed access to a large part of the FoD and provide valuable knowledge and experience, which can be used to widen NGA in more areas of the County. Need to maintain the momentum achieved to date and focus on a comprehensive programme of demand stimulation across the wider County</p>	<p>SWRDA from RDP-E The Herefordshire pilot is funded by BDUK</p> <p>Will depend on successful bid</p>	<p>2 yrs Review April 2012</p> <p>Bid to be submitted Apr 11</p>	<p>GFirst/GCC</p>	<p>FoD District Council, suppliers, Herefordshire CC FoD DC</p> <p>GCC, District Councils, BMC</p>
<p><b>Improved Road and Rail Access</b> – Continue to work collaboratively with key stakeholders and private sector to make case for investment in improved road and rail links to London and the SE, including re-duelling of the line from Kemble to Swindon and removal of the Nettleton Bottom bottleneck</p>	<p>The poor rail service to London not only acts as a disincentive to investment but forces individuals to increase the carbon footprint to avoid delays. The blockages at Nettleton Bottom add costs to industry and</p>	<p>GCC Members and Officers time</p>		<p>GCC/GFirst</p>	<p>Network Rail,</p>

	carbon to the atmosphere				
<b>Critical Infrastructure</b> – continue to review the critical infrastructure of the county, particularly power and water and work with partners to increase its resilience	The 2008 floods revealed the serious impact on the economy that such a disaster can have. <i>Opportunities to attract green investment ? Skills development needs ?</i>	GCC Officers Time		GCC	Utility companies
<b>Lowering Carbon Footprint of Businesses / Resource Efficiency Support</b> –Support Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) to use their expertise to produce a simple set of decision making tools for business leaders to reduce their carbon foot print and increase profitability, which can then be distributed to every business in the County <b>Scope for a Task and Finish Group ....</b>	Reduction of CO2 footprint of the County	SWEA	Review April 2012	GFirst	HMRC to help distribute to businesses, BMC, District authorities
<b>Micro-Generation Industry/Growing the Low Carbon Supply Chain</b> – establish an industry led Task Force to identify barriers to growth in the micro-generation industry  <i>TO ADD - cf: initiatives in the Gloucestershire Environment Partnership Plan where obvious business engagement opportunities or an economic development bias, plus outcome of planned meeting between Colin Hygate (low carbon business sponsor) GFirst and GCC Officers/Members to explore potential planned activity .</i>	A sub sector that needs to grow rapidly as there are significant employment opportunities  Develop wider links in terms of the engagement of businesses with the planning process  Potential scope to explore the productive utilisation of the GCC Rural Estate (food security opportunities especially).	GFirst staff time and SWEA initially, thereafter the private sector	Review Oct 2011	GFirst	Private sector

**How will we know what difference we have made?**

Indicator	Baseline	Targets 2011/2012	Lead	Links
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**Resources**

To be developed .....

**Key Risks**

**Related Documents and References**